

The Bloomfield Record.

S. M. HULIN, Editor and Proprietor.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1876.

"All who are interested in having a live newspaper in this village are requested to send us by mail, or to the publishing office, local items of news, correspondence, etc., for publication.

No charge is made for publishing Marriages, Deaths, or Religious Notices.

Single numbers of THE RECORD can always be had at this Office, at the Post Office, and of the Newspapers.

All kinds of PRINTING done at THE RECORD Office.

To Advertisers and Business Men.

The circulation of this Paper is the best character for all Local or General Advertisers. It is read by most families in Bloomfield and vicinity, where it is constantly gaining in patronage, and its influence and influence. As THE RECORD is the only paper published or printed in the town, all Legal Notices concerning property should, in order to insure validity of title, be inserted in our columns. The law requires this class of notices to be advertised in a paper published and printed near the property affected.

Our Advertising Rates are moderate and we study to please patrons in making their announcement attractive.

The Legislature.

New Jersey's one hundred Legislature met on Tuesday, when the new members were sworn in and an organization effected as follows: "President of the Senate, Wm. J. Sewell, of Camden; Secretary, N. W. Voorhees; Assistant Secretary, William Cloke of Mercer; Engrossing Clerk, F. F. Paterson of Gloucester; Sergeant-at-Arms, S. T. Champion; and the usual number of doorkeepers. The Governor's message was received, and the sections relative to taxation and railroad taxation were read. The House organized by the election of John D. Carscallen of Hudson, Speaker; John Y. Foster of Essex, Clerk; H. J. Potts of Mercer, Reading Clerk; Jonathan Goble of Ocean, Engrossing Clerk; John D. Fell of Mercer, Sergeant-at-Arms.

A determination in the direction of retrenchment was evinced in a resolution adopted in the Republican Assembly adopted on a reform basis from the beginning of the session.

In the Senate, a similar cutting down of salaries was agreed upon, thus placing the controlling power of the Legislature on a reform basis from the beginning of the session.

Gov. Bedell's Message.

The annual message of the Governor was read in the Senate upon the opening of the Legislature. The document is largely devoted to the Constitutional Amendments. His Excellency gives the Legislators his views upon various important questions that have arisen since the proposed Amendments came before the people. The judicial weight attaching to Gov. Bedell's opinions on questions of law will especially command them to the State as being the utterances of wisdom and sagacity.

He begins by calling attention to the importance of the Amendments, and of framing good laws for their enforcement. He recommends the bribery law, saying:

"These are times when sharp punishments are needed for all crimes in public office or affecting the purity of the ballot box. These are respectable and more ignominious such crimes can be made, the more protection there is against their commission."

Regarding the amendment concerning general and special laws, he holds that existing laws are not repealed:

"Constitutions, like statutes, must be construed prospectively, and not retrospectively, unless the intention otherwise is clear. But the duty of the Legislature cannot be discharged by leaving upon the statute book special laws affecting the public that are inimical to the true spirit of the amendments, where it is practicable and lawful to repeal them and supply their places by laws conformable thereto."

All special legislation for "towns and counties" is done away with, but cities may still obtain local legislation, except in the restricted matter of "Appointing local offices and commissions." On this point he says:

"The facility with which designing men have obtained special laws to enable them to proselyte various schemes of extortions and fraud, under the guise of public improvement and benefit, has been the source of much of our municipal burthens."

The power to make local improvements ought to be most scrupulously guarded, for in that lurks the greatest danger to private property. None of the ordinary street improvements should be made without the consent of the owners of at least three-fourths of the land along the line, and those who make the assessments for damages and benefits should be appointed by the Circuit or other courts of the county."

Regarding the tax amendment, which reads: "Property shall be assessed for taxes under general laws and by uniform rules according to its true value," the Governor is of the opinion that it refers only to the mode of taxing. Power to exempt, provided the exemptions are of a general nature, is not taken away, since to do so would require the amendment to read "of property," etc.

In relation to the Five County Act, in view of the embarrassments it repeats involves, the Governor recommends legislation which will favor both borrower and lender.

"There is a strong equity in assessing all mortgages, yet the various forms of investment outside the State, by which taxation is escaped, often prevent the borrower from obtaining money at his greatest need. A man should be so framed as to afford him opportunities of procuring a loan, and at the same time compel the mortgagee holder to meet as much of this just burthen as possible. Capital should be kept in the State, yet we know that it will be taken out if it is to the interest of the owner. It may be, that if the real estate mortgages are released for their proportionate part of State and county taxes, and exempting from other municipal taxes, and the mortgagor is allowed to claim a deduction to that extent, it will solve the problem."

On the subject of free schools the Governor expresses his views in a clear and decided manner:

"Free schools are safeguards of the State, and nation, and should be kept completely free from sectarian control or influence. It is a cardinal principle in our political economy, and fundamental in our system of government, that the Church and State must be kept perfectly separate; but mistakes notwithstanding, often times in applying this principle, we should never lose sight of the facts that this is a laud Christian, or Biblical, character and civilization, and that its teachings are the foundation of our virtue, and social elevation. These, it is true, may and do assume different shapes in different minds, in considering their relations to God, thereby inducing such religious sects and associations for worship as may be deemed necessary or better for that purpose, according to belief, but the great undisputed, underlying doctrines of duty to God and man and individual virtue which make good Christians in the Bible, and to exclude it from being read in schools, is a retrogression toward leavenism. The simple reading of the Bible in school is not the teaching of sectarian or peculiar religious beliefs, simply because it is used to establish religious creeds and forms. The school should never be shut against the Bible. Our law is perfectly just. Its words are, 'that it shall not be lawful for any teacher, trustee, or trustees to introduce into or have performed in any school receiving its proportion of the public monies, any religious service, ceremony, or forms whatsoever, except reading the Bible and repeating the Lord's Prayer.' This gives the Bible a fair chance in its influence upon civil character and duty to the Creator, while an exclusion of it is a terrible stride in making the State godless.

The Fourth Anniversary

Of the Westminster Sabbath School Missionary Association was held at the Chapel last Sunday evening. The evening was beautifully clear, and the house was full. The hymns used on the occasion were from the Moody and Sankey collection, and when Mr. G. T. Moore, the President of the Association, gave out the opening hymn "Ring the Bells of Heaven," he prefaced it by saying that he had selected this hymn from the thought that God had abundantly blessed the efforts of the Association during the past year, in calling so many of the members of the Association to become members of this church on earth, that the angels, who know the value of the soul, would make heaven ring with their rejoicing. After the singing of the hymn, prayer was offered by Mr. G. W. Cook, the Superintendent of the school, which was followed by responsive reading. Some appropriations, in addition to those noted in the Treasurer's report, were acted upon, including one of \$50 to the Syrian Mission; \$7 to \$10 to send the "Word of Life," a Sunday School paper, to the Westminster Union Sunday School in Nebraska, and \$25 for the general Sunday School work in Northern Michigan, to be dispensed as Mr. Denmore, the Missionary in that region, and who was present on the platform, should thus best. The Report of the Secretary, Mr. G. P. Ludlam, was then read, in which the work of the Association was clearly marked out. It included the support furnished to Dr. Snowden, the missionary in Nebraska, but who, during the past three months, has been removed to San Jose, California; the education of two children in Canton, and one in Shanghai, China, and in various lesser ways seeking to promote the spread of the gospel.

The Treasurer, Mr. Samuel J. Potter, read his annual report which was adopted and highly commended for its plain, clear and business-like appearance.

This report speaks well for the plan which has been in operation by the Society for the past two years,—that of voluntary contribution for the support of the church.

The Board of Trustees who served so faithfully last year were unanimously re-elected. This board is composed of the following gentlemen, viz. 1875.

Thomas McDowell, Jr., Wilson F. Folson, Nathaniel H. Dill, J. Banks Rebold; Samuel J. Potter; Augustus T. Morris and T. H. Ward.

It was resolved to continue the present plan for raising the revenue of the church.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the Treasurer, and also to the ushers of the church, for the able and courteous manner in which they had discharged their duties for the past year.

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